

ABSTRACT

An improved valve for use in a hydrostatic drive apparatus for a vehicle such as a zero turn vehicle. For each hydraulic drive system in the vehicle, a valve is located
5 between the high and low pressure sides of the closed hydraulic circuit connecting the hydraulic pump and motor. The valve opens when the pressure rise rate in the high pressure side reaches a set level to minimize pressure spikes in the high pressure side and thus improve performance of the vehicle. A valve block may be used to mount the valve, and a second valve may also be included therein to connect the two pressure sides of the
10 hydraulic circuit in a similar manner when the vehicle is operated in reverse.

NGEDOCS :937543.2